



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 15, 2004

S. 441

A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey to Fresno County, California, the existing federal courthouse in that county

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 7, 2004*

S. 441 would allow the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) to convey the B.F. Sisk Federal Building and United States Courthouse located in Fresno, California, to Fresno County. CBO estimates that this conveyance would not have a significant impact on the federal budget.

S. 441 would require that the conveyance be made after a new federal courthouse is constructed and the tenants in the B.F. Sisk Federal Building are relocated. In addition, the legislation would require that the property be used for public purposes, including the administration of justice, for up to 20 years. Finally, the bill would require that the county pay a nominal consideration for the property.

Based on information from GSA, CBO expects that the property will be reported as surplus to the federal government after a new federal courthouse is completed in Fresno County in May 2005. Under current law, surplus property may be made available through public benefit conveyances, such as for use to assist the homeless at little or no cost before offering the property for negotiated or public sale. Any cash payments resulting from negotiated or public sales are deposited in the Treasury as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending).

Based on an environmental assessment of the building prepared by a private environmental consulting firm and information from GSA, CBO expects that the Department of Housing and Urban Development would find the building to be suitable for use to assist homeless persons through state, local, or nonprofit organizations and that, under current law, it would likely be conveyed for that purpose at no cost after completion of the new building and relocation of current tenants. Thus, CBO estimates that conveying the building under S. 441 at little or no cost to Fresno County, California, would not result in a loss of offsetting receipts from the sale of this building.

S. 441 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On October 22, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1274, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 1, 2003. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimates.

The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.